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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 20 | Humidity 95% Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers Sensex 80,080 | Nifty 24,500 | Gold 1,02,600 | Silver 1,20,000 | Dollar 87.63 | Euro 101.89 | GBP 118.38

Who is in charge?

CITY PAGE 4

B'luru must wait a little longer before new commissioners for 5 newly-carved municipal corporations take charge

Pricey schooling

CITY PAGE 6

Families in state pay for schools far above national average as pre-primary to higher secondary expenses surge

As nearly 400 minors arrested over various offences in 2025, experts explain what drives youngsters to crime; police say though juveniles have been involved in several offences, theft cases remain biggest concern

WHEN CRIME TURNS CHILD'S PLAY

Petty theft can in turn fuel drug habit, violent acts, say police

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

From petty thefts to drug-fueled robberies, the rising number of children in conflict with the law has raised much concern.

2025 has been pretty grim with nearly 400 minors in the city finding themselves on the wrong side of the law. What begins as petty theft or a desperate bid to fund drug habits has, in some cases, spiraled into violent robberies and assaults.

According to data from Bengaluru police, between January and July 2025, 345 cases were registered in which around 400 juveniles were arrested. In comparison, 2024 saw a total of 506 cases, with 639 minors apprehended for various offences.

A senior police officer told BM, "Crimes involving minors are found across all kinds of offences. While cases of murder and assault are fewer, many juveniles have been caught for minor offences such as mobile theft, chain-snatching, and vehicle theft. A significant proportion of arrests, however, are related to theft cases."

Recent incidents underline the gravity of the issue. In one theft case reported in May, a minor was caught in a bag-snatching incident. During police questioning, the minor allegedly confessed that he committed the crime to sell the stolen phone and use the money to buy alcohol and drugs. In another case in Banaswadi, police arrested an 18-year-old minor auto driver and a 27-year-old woman for attacking a woman at her residence and extorting gold ornaments. The duo fled with valuables, but swift investigation led to their arrest. Police recovered 14.76 grams of gold ornaments worth ₹1.75 lakh from the accused.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

> **"To sustain a lifestyle revolving around reels, pubs, and parties, some end up stealing from their own homes, knowing their parents have money, while others resort to theft outside**
>
> —Rajalaxmi Ankalagi, advocate

Camera obscura

CCTV centre turns store room, monitors and other equipment vanish as pvt agency maintaining it missing in action

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) spent crores of rupees to install hundreds of CCTV cameras in the city. The objective was to keep a vigil on anti-social elements and also monitor garbage clearance. What to say when the very object that was to keep vigil has turned into a subject of neglect?

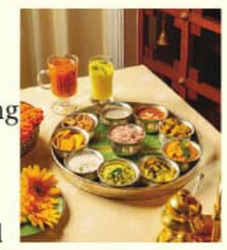
The BBMP had installed CCTV cameras in and around Domlur and a monitoring centre was set up at Dr Rajkumar Park near the BMTC Bus Station. It is said that the BBMP had installed eight monitors at the centre and assigned a private agency for the maintenance of CCTV cameras. However, the CCTV monitoring centre is in a pathetic condition. Pourakarmikas are using it as a storeroom to keep brooms and other equipment.

It is said the private agency abandoned the CCTV monitoring centre due to reasons only known to them and the BBMP. "The agency monitored the CCTVs for a year. After that, I have not seen anyone

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Cultural Extravaganza



Dakshin, ITC Windsor invites you to experience Kerala's culinary artistry with a specially curated Onam Sandhya, featuring classics like Avial, Olan, Kootu Curry, Murungakkai Sambar, Kuthari Choru, and traditional desserts Parippu Pradhaman and Pal Adai, all served in a vibrant, floral-decorated ambience. **Where: Dakshin, ITC Windsor, Vasanth Nagar; When: September 5, 12 pm to 2 pm**

02 Industry trends & insights

The Bangalore Branch of the Southern India Regional Council (SIRC) of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) welcomes you to join the 20th Karnataka State Level Chartered Accountants' Conference on August 29 and 30. The two-day conference themed "Knowledge. Practice. Excellence." Sessions include Income Tax Assessments, Data Privacy, GST, Accounting Standards, Tax Audit, and more, with thought leaders, policy experts, and regulators attending the event. **Where: Princess Shrine Palace Grounds, Jayamahal; When: August 29 to August 30, 9 am onwards**

03 Taste wellness at the Verandah

Grand Mercure presents a mindful dining experience mixing health and flavour this millet season. A specially curated menu featuring Foxtail Millet & Avocado Tikki, Barnyard Millet Soup, Kodo Millet Biryani, Quinoa with Asian Vegetables, and indulgent desserts like Ragi Chocolate Tart. **Where: The Verandah, Grand Mercure, Koramangala; When: Till August 31**

04 Tune in

Armaan Malik known for his diverse range of romantic chartbusters to high energy hits, will be performing live, taking the audience on a melodious journey. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: September 13, 6 pm**

05 Art ahead

Mythic Matrices, a landmark solo exhibition by acclaimed contemporary artist Seema Kohli, presented by the National Gallery of Modern Art, offers a focused retrospective of 20 pivotal years from Kohli's expansive practice. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Vasanth Nagar; When: August 26 to September 26**

Bengaluru Airport gets unique accreditation

Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, has received Level-2 Accreditation under the Airports Council International's (ACI) Accessibility Enhancement Accreditation (AEA) programme, becoming the first airport in India to do so. According to airport authorities, measures implemented include the Sunflower Lanyard scheme for passengers with hidden disabilities, a sensory room for neurodivergent travellers, a dedicated accessibility committee, and staff training programmes to support passengers. "We are honoured to be awarded the Level-2 Accreditation under ACI's Airport Accessibility Enhancement programme," said Satyaki Raghunath, Chief Operating Officer of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL).

Festive fervour
The city has burst into vibrant celebration as the Ganesha festival kicks off in full swing; the celebrations bring unity, tradition, and devotion, along with tons of festive joy

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

2.19 lakh Ganesha idols immersed on day one

On the first day of Ganesha idol immersion held on Wednesday, a total of 2,19,153 idols were immersed across the city. The South zone recorded the highest number with 79,039 idols, followed by the West zone with 60,703 and the East zone with 44,000 immersions. Among the other zones, Yelahanka saw 8,492 idols immersed, RR Nagar had 7,028 immersions, Mahadevapura had 5,690 immersions, Bommanahalli had 7,028 immersions, and Dasarahalli witnessed 1,104 immersions. The idols were immersed at both permanent lakes and temporary artificial tanks/kalyanis, apart from mobile immersion tanks arranged by the civic body. — BMB

Plastic not fantastic this festive season

Environmentalists and citizen volunteers urge adoption of green practices, push for homemade Ganesha idols, reusable packaging materials and sustainable idol immersion for Ganesha festival

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Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), and environmentalists have been making efforts to ensure that the Ganesha festival is celebrated in an eco-friendly manner. Authorities and environmentalists are leaving no stone unturned in their mission to curb the use of Plaster of Paris (PoP) Ganesha idols and single-use plastics during the festive season. Officials continue to conduct raids on warehouses storing PoP idols, enforcing regulations aimed at protecting the environment. Meanwhile, environmental groups are actively organising awareness programmes to educate the public on the importance of protecting the environment during the festivities.

Though the positive results are palpable, the awareness amongst the public has not lived up to expectations. Despite the ban, the sale of PoP Ganesha idols continues in the city and organisers still use single-use plastic while distributing pooja offerings during the festival.

According to Odette Katrak, co-founder of Beautiful Bharat, every festival serves as a gentle reminder to recalibrate our practices, encouraging people to show greater concern for the environment. "Our Ganesha reel showcases past earth-friendly practices of our team, which has inspired other communities to make small changes for more sustainable celebrations," said Katrak, adding that alternatives such as crafting homemade Ganesha idols from clay instead of purchasing brightly painted ones, and opting for home immersion that allows water to be reused for gardening, are examples of small yet impactful changes. She suggested other changes such as using flowers in decorations that can later be composted, opting for cloth bags instead of plastic ones, and utilising reusable items for food consumption and distribution. "People may wonder whether it is worth it but there is no doubt that all these small steps contribute to celebrations that help our city's waste and the planet too," said Katrak.

Geeta Viswanathan, who has been making clay Ganesha idols with her family for nearly 25 years, urges everyone to adopt practice of making Ganesha idols at home

Environmentalists and volunteers across the city are working to raise public awareness—not just through words, but by leading through example. Geeta Viswanathan, a teacher and nature lover, began making clay Ganesha idols nearly 25 years ago, when her children were young. What started as a simple way to bond with family and friends, soon became a cherished tradition for Viswanathan. "Every year, my children and their friends would gather at our home to shape little Ganeshas from clay in the days leading up to the festival. Today, a generation later, the tradition continues — my daughter now carries it forward with her own family in the US," said Viswanathan, encouraging everyone to embrace the age-old practice of crafting Ganesha idols at home. She said that the practice is eco-friendly, simple, and cost-effective. "For visarjan, I immerse the idol in a bucket of water, and then return the water to the earth. The flowers used for pooja and decoration go straight into my composter. The result: a truly zero-waste celebration that honours both faith and nature," said Viswanathan. She noted that this year there has been a noticeable surge in PoP Ganesha idols coated with toxic paints. She said that while these idols may appear attractive, they inflict irreversible damage by polluting lakes, rivers, and oceans—threatening aquatic life and human health. "Let us celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi with devotion and responsibility, ensuring our joy does not come at the cost of the environment," she said.

Activist suggests changes such as using flowers in decorations that can later be composted, opting for cloth bags instead of plastic ones, and utilising reusable items

Women of Wisdom volunteers, in association with Hasiru Friends, organised a Green Celebrations March in JP Nagar 2nd Phase to promote sustainable festival celebration practices. "We are happy to share that we could cut down turmeric powder and vermilion packets during the celebration. This helps to avoid single-use plastic. We are switching to traditional sustainable practices. Children are our key tool to bring in change in the community," said Shwetha Urs, a member of Women of Wisdom.

Padmashree Mahesh, founding member of HSR Citizen Forum and a member of Team Beautiful Bangalore, said that volunteers ensure minimal waste generation during programmes. "We use cutlery for distributing food. We avoid using plastic to serve water. We are organising a function on August 31 at Hongasandra where around 10,000 people are expected to gather. Our objective is to ensure zero waste during the function," she said.

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BRACELET COLLECTION

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New corporations ready, wait on for commissioners

New commissioners will oversee their zones; government to restructure zones and wards for elections, each corporation will get functional autonomy in administration, civic services, local planning

| Sridhar Vivan
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The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has been formally constituted with the state government notifying its formation under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. However, Bengalureans will have to wait a little longer before the new commissioners for the five newly carved municipal corporations take charge.

New corporations for elections

The state government will appoint commissioners for the five new municipal corporations within a week. Once appointed, these officials will oversee administration in their respective zones. Subsequently, the government will form a special committee to restructure wards, invite objections, and submit a final report. After finalising ward boundaries, the government will announce ward-wise reservations, paving the way for election.

With the final notification scheduled for September 2, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will cease to exist after 18 years. The BBMP, created in 2007 by merging eight city municipal councils, a town municipal council, and 110 villages, will now be replaced by five new corporations under the GBA framework.

The newly formed Greater Bengaluru Authority will function from the BBMP headquarters at N R Square, which is currently undergoing renovation. The 75-member body includes Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Shobha Karandlaje, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, the city police commissioner, district commissioner, BMTC and BESCOM heads, BWSSB chairman, and senior officials from BMRCL, BMRDA, and other civic agencies. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar will serve as the Vice-Chairman.

The government has decided that Bengaluru Central, East, West, North, and South will function as separate corporations, each divided into two zones. Every zone will have a Special Commissioner and Joint Commissioner, M Maheshwara Rao has been appointed as the in-charge Chief Commissioner of the GBA, and he will also act as the principal commissioner for all five corporations until further appointments.

Urban Development Department officials outline detailed ward restructuring plans ahead of crucial civic elections

> **"Each corporation will function with two zones under Special Commissioners and Joint Commissioners, ensuring better accountability and improved delivery of civic services** – M Maheshwara Rao, Chief Commissioner of the GBA

Century-old system replaced

The move marks the end of an era for Bengaluru's civic administration, which has seen multiple transitions over one-and-a-half centuries. The city's first municipal body was set up in 1881 under the Wadiyars during British rule. In 1949, Bengaluru City Corporation was created with 15 wards and elected mayors. Over the decades, the structure evolved into the Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike in 1995, and later the BBMP in 2007. Now, in 2025, Bengaluru steps into a new administrative phase under the Greater Bengaluru Authority.

Timeline of Bengaluru's local governance

1881 – First municipal body established under the Wodeyars.

1949–1995 – Bengaluru City Corporation with 33 mayors.

1995–2006 – Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BMP).

2007–2025 – Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

2025 onwards – Greater Bengaluru Authority with five new corporations

Heavy rain triggers alerts across state

Commuters struggle in B'luru as heavy rain lashes city

Heavy rain across Karnataka on Thursday prompted the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to issue orange and yellow alerts in several districts, leading to holidays for educational institutions and precautionary steps by local authorities. An orange alert indicates rainfall between 11 and 20 cm, while a yellow alert denotes 6 to 11 cm. In Bidar, overnight rain in Aurad taluk led to flooding on bridges, including Dadagi bridge in Bhalki taluk, bringing traffic to a halt. A stream in Narayanpur village was also reported in spate, following which Deputy Commissioner Shilpa Sharma declared a holiday for schools and colleges.

In Dakshina Kannada, where the IMD issued an orange alert, the district administration ordered the closure of anganwadis, schools and colleges in Mangaluru, Puttur, Mulki, Moodbidri, Ullal and Bantwal taluks, while parents were advised to keep children away from water bodies and low-lying areas. **— BMB**

Dark alleys of peer pressure

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Advocate Rajalaxmi Ankalagi told BM that the issue is not just a law-and-order challenge but a deep-rooted social problem tied to poverty, lack of education, peer pressure, and the easy availability of intoxicants. "These days, even school-going children are getting involved in such activities. It's not limited to them, anyone can be drawn into it. Today's youth are being lured by things that yield no positive outcome, which often drives them away from studies. In many cases, thefts are committed just to procure simple intoxicants like ganja or other drugs."

She gave the instance of a shocking incident from Yelahanka Government PU College a few years ago. "Three boys fought over drugs after getting intoxicated. The fight ended with two boys killing the third and dumping his body on a railway track," she said.

"Adolescence brings behavioural changes, and today's boys themselves are navigating a complex world. Many minors believe completing 2nd PUC is sufficient, as they aim for jobs in the gig economy or sales. They often pressure parents for bikes, and once they begin earning, they feel empowered but remain focused only on the present, not the future. To sustain a lifestyle revolving around reels, pubs, and parties, some end up stealing from their own homes, knowing their parents have money, while others resort to theft outside," she explained.

According to reports from last year, data shows that Bengaluru tops the state in juvenile crime. Between 2020 and 2024, the city registered 1,110 juvenile cases, the highest among all districts in Karnataka. Serious offences are also on the rise, with statewide records listing 1,588 petty crimes and 1,470 serious offenses during the same period. Teenagers make up the majority of offenders, most commonly those aged 17 and 18 years, though a few cases also involve 15- and 16-year-olds.

A recent UNESCO study highlights that many 18-year-olds are brought before the legal system for crimes like theft, robbery, or other unlawful activities. Recent cases of students stealing to fund drug habits reflect this trend. The root causes often lie in broken homes, parental issues, substance abuse, and lack of education, which push children toward crime as a way to earn money. "There are many factors that influence a child's behaviour, making it a difficult and emotional challenge for them to cope with. Changes in society, the economy, and the job market often push children toward crime. For some, even small acts like taking someone's belongings without permission and boasting about it are seen as a form of adventure," Rajalakshmi added.

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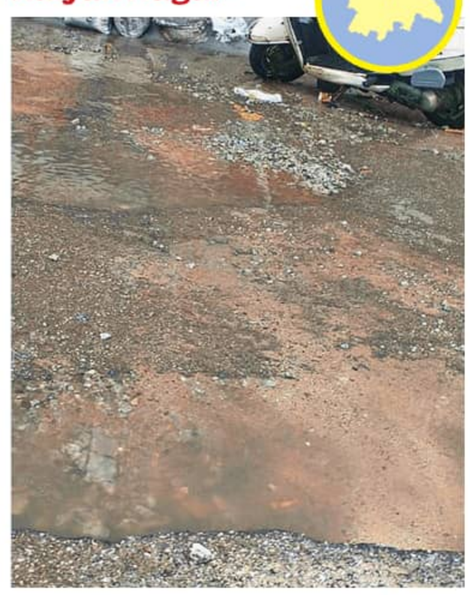
Roads in ruin

Kalyan Nagar



The road near Seven Plates Hotel in Kalyan Nagar is in a severely damaged state, posing a risk to motorists and demanding urgent attention from the BBMP.

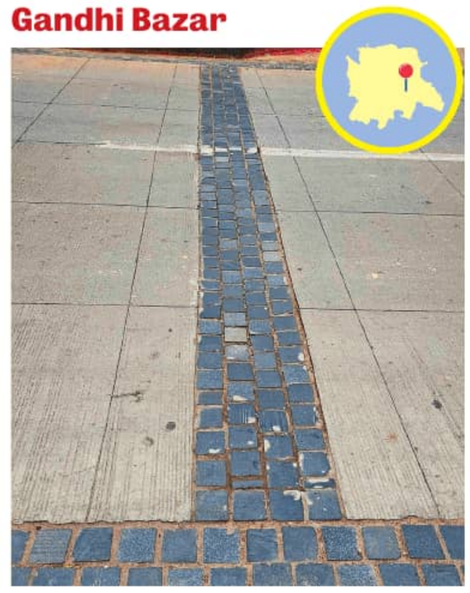
Complaints ignored

Hongasandra

At 415, 13th Main, MICO Layout, Hongasandra, Begur, the road has been in terrible condition for over three months. Despite repeated complaints by the residents, no action has been taken by BBMP so far.

Sunken stones

Gandhi Bazar



On Gandhibazar Main Road, the cobblestones laid between every 10 concrete slabs have sunk below slab level, making the entire stretch uneven and uncomfortable for commuters.

Let us celebrate the festival together.
Share your family photos alongside the Ganapati decoration with BM on our WhatsApp number.
The best photographs will be featured in Bangalore Mirror.

9591233247

State assures action on police chief appointment, PIL closed

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday disposed of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the appointment of senior IPS officer Dr M A Saleem as in-charge Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG and IGP). The PIL was filed by advocate Sudha Katwa, seeking compliance with the Supreme Court's guidelines in the Prakash Singh case (1996) for selecting a regular police chief. It also urged the state government to expedite the empanelment of IPS officers by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and ensure the early appointment of a permanent DG & IGP.

A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Joshi closed the matter following the assurance of Advocate General K Shashikiran Shetty. The court was told the state would appoint a regular police chief within a week of receiving the UPSC's empanelment list. Dr Saleem, a 1993-batch IPS officer and current CID head, was given additional charge of DG and IGP on May 21 after the retirement of Alok Mohan. The government explained this interim arrangement was necessary as it awaited the UPSC's panel of eligible officers.

The Advocate General further informed the bench that the UPSC empanelment committee had met on August 26 and the state had already urged the commission for quick submission of the final list. Observing that no further directions were necessary in view of the state's assurance, the court disposed of the PIL. The petition had also sought to restrain Dr Saleem from functioning as in-charge police chief, alleging slow government action on the empanelment process.

–BMB

Rummy platform's gaming ban challenge to be heard on Aug 30

The Karnataka High Court will hear on Saturday (August 30) a petition filed by Head Digital Works, the company behind the A23 Rummy platform, challenging the constitutional validity of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025. The matter was mentioned before Justice B M Shyam Prasad on Thursday (August 28), who directed that it be listed for hearing.

The Act, which received Presidential assent on August 22 after being passed by Parliament, seeks to prohibit "online money games" and related services such as banking and advertising. Its provisions extend to companies based overseas if they cater to Indian players.

An "online money game" is defined as any internet-based game—whether of skill, chance, or both—where players pay entry fees, deposit money, or place stakes with the expectation of monetary or other rewards. Violations may attract imprisonment of up to three years, fines up to ₹1 crore, or both. Advertising such platforms may invite up to two years in prison or fines of ₹50 lakh. The Centre is also empowered to establish a regulatory authority to decide whether a particular game qualifies as an online money game.

The law authorises searches, seizures, and arrests without warrant based on reasonable suspicion and allows blocking of platforms under Section 69A of the IT Act.

E-sports are exempted, being recognised as competitive skill-based events. Social online games for education or recreation without financial stakes may also be promoted. The Statement of Objects cites rising addiction and economic harm, while stressing support for safe, innovative gaming.

–BMB

2 die, 1 hurt in live wire mishap

A woman and her stepson were electrocuted, and her stepdaughter injured after a high-tension wire touched iron poles outside their home in Karanala village near Doddaballapura on Tuesday. Lalithamma (50) and Sanjay (45), a farmer, died instantly. Lakshmmamma, the stepdaughter, was hospitalised. Lalithamma, Narayanappa's wife, touched the live pole unknowingly. Sanjay rushed to help and was electrocuted. Lakshmmamma was shocked trying to intervene. Neighbours used wooden poles to rescue them and alerted authorities. BESCOM noted peeled wire contacted poles causing the accident. Police are awaiting BESCOM's report.

–BMB

Discount: Motorists rush to clear dues

The 50 per cent discount on pending traffic fines announced by the Bengaluru Traffic Police has received an overwhelming response from vehicle owners across the city. Motorists are making the most of the opportunity, saving nearly half their money while clearing long-pending dues.

In one instance, a motorist cleared fines amounting to ₹46,500 for nearly 100 traffic violation cases on a single vehicle. The state government had announced the scheme, allowing citizens to pay outstanding fines at a 50% discount between August 23 and September 9. According to official data, the scheme has already yielded impressive results. In just five days, the traffic police collected ₹18.95 crore by settling 6,72,875 lakh pending cases.

–BMB

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LLOYDS METALS

Gondwana University, Gadchiroli

NOTIFICATION FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR

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Schooling in K'taka way pricier than elsewhere in country

Pre-primary to higher secondary expenses surge, with city families paying far above national average, turning schooling into a major financial burden

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Sending a child to school in Karnataka has become a significantly heavier expense than the national average, especially for urban families who pay far more than their rural counterparts. Parents in Karnataka are bearing steep education costs, with urban households spending about ₹40,000 per child annually at the higher secondary level. This figure, drawn from the Comprehensive Modular Survey on Education 2025 (April–June 2025) by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, is only a conservative estimate. The survey combines both government and private institutions, but in reality, many private schools in Bengaluru and other cities charge anywhere between ₹1 lakh and ₹10 lakh per year, making the financial burden on families much higher than the averages suggest and creating significant stress on their household budgets.

At the pre-primary level, rural Karnataka remains relatively affordable, with parents spending between ₹5,400 and ₹6,000 per child annually, lower than the rural India average of ₹6,700. This makes it far cheaper than states like Kerala (₹19,300) or Himachal Pradesh (₹22,600). In contrast, urban households spend an average of ₹17,700, compared with ₹14,300 nationally. For girls, the cost is significantly higher at ₹20,900, while for boys it is ₹14,400. Karnataka's urban pre-primary spending is almost on par with Kerala (₹18,900) and just below Tamil Nadu (₹21,200).

The gap widens at the primary level. Rural families spend around ₹7,200, close to the rural India average of ₹7,600, while urban households spend ₹18,600 — higher than the national urban average of ₹16,200. Karnataka is nearly equal to Kerala (₹19,700), slightly below Delhi (₹18,700), and well below Tamil Nadu, which tops the list at ₹26,800.

Middle and secondary schooling in urban Karnataka sees steep cost escalation, tripling from rural figures and rapidly outpacing rising national urban expenditure trends

> **"The ₹40,000 figure underplays the real cost, as many private schools charge several lakhs, making education a major financial strain for urban families**
>
> –V George, a parent

The burden increases sharply at the middle stage. Urban parents in Karnataka spend ₹28,821 per child, compared with just ₹9,361 in rural areas. The state's overall average of ₹16,839 is substantially higher than the national average of ₹11,881. At the secondary stage, the gap widens further, with urban families paying ₹32,908 and rural parents ₹10,747. Karnataka's overall average of ₹18,877 is above the national figure of ₹14,781. While Chandigarh leads with nearly ₹80,000 per student annually, other states such as Tamil Nadu (₹21,861), Maharashtra (₹20,427), and Punjab (₹22,699) remain costlier than Karnataka, though the state still ranks in the upper-cost bracket nationally.

The heaviest burden falls on higher secondary education. Urban households spend an average of ₹40,023 per child annually, while rural families spend ₹21,925. Karnataka's combined average of ₹28,821 is significantly higher than the national average of ₹20,133. Only a few states and Union Territories — including Mizoram (₹45,686), Punjab (₹41,281), Telangana (₹40,986), and Chandigarh (₹45,453) — record higher costs. Karnataka is costlier than Kerala (₹24,582) and Andhra Pradesh (₹25,321) but slightly below Tamil Nadu (₹29,714).

These findings place Karnataka in the upper-middle cost bracket nationally. While rural households manage with modest expenses, urban families face a steady climb from ₹17,700 in pre-primary to ₹40,000 in higher secondary.

"For parents in Bengaluru and other urban centres, the reality is even harsher than the survey suggests.

Since the averages include government schools, the ₹40,000 figure underplays the real cost — with many private schools charging several lakhs per year, education has become one of the biggest financial strains for urban families," said V George, a parent.

TN clears land for Hosur Airport

The Karnataka government is still scouting land for a second airport near Bengaluru, but Tamil Nadu has surged ahead with plans for a new international airport at Shoolagiri in Krishnagiri district, just 19 km from the Karnataka border. Positioned strategically to attract Bengaluru's IT sector, the airport will span 2,300 acres, with 650 acres already under government control. Authorities have been instructed to fast-track land acquisition for the remaining area, and the state will soon seek Central approval. Announced in the state budget by Chief Minister MK Stalin, the airport near Hosur is designed to handle nearly three crore passengers annually. It will also serve over 500 large industries and 3,000 small and medium enterprises, posing significant competition to Kempegowda International Airport once operational within the next decade. **–BMB**

AI to manage Hasanamba crowd

As thousands of Bengalureans await the Hasanamba temple visit, the Hassan district administration will deploy Artificial Intelligence (AI) during the annual Deepavali festival to streamline darshan for lakhs of devotees. Heavy rush in previous years caused congestion despite months of planning. This time, AI will predict crowd flow per minute, hour, and day, and suggest strategies to manage excess footfall, VIP visits, and traffic from buses, trains, and private vehicles. Last year, the temple saw 14–15 lakh devotees, and numbers are expected to rise with visitors from across India and abroad. Officials aim to ensure a safer, smoother darshan experience with AI-driven crowd management. **-BMB**

K'taka enforces internal SC quota

The Karnataka government has directed the immediate implementation of internal reservation within the Scheduled Castes quota. Of the existing 17% SC reservation, 6% will be earmarked for Left Hand communities, 6% for Right Hand communities, and 5% for nomadic groups. This order, based on the Nagamohan Das Commission report, will benefit 101 castes and apply to direct recruitment in state civil services and other government jobs. The Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department has been instructed to issue notifications and initiate recruitment under the revised system. **-BMB**

Night checks begin on Charmadi Ghat to curb rising crime

Vehicles to move in batches under strict police watch from 10 pm to 6 am, ensuring safety amid forest challenges

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Bengalureans planning to take the scenic but treacherous Charmadi Ghat route must factor in a new rule that has come into force for night-time travel.

To curb the rising incidents of cattle theft and other criminal activities in the dense forest stretch, police have made night checks mandatory at the Kottigehara check-post. Every vehicle will be inspected and allowed to move ahead only in batches of five.

The new regulation applies between 10 pm and 6am. During these hours, a team led by a Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) will be stationed at the check-post to monitor movement. Additionally, an extra gate has been set up on a mud road 1.5 km away to prevent illegal entry and exit. This gate will remain locked during the night.

As part of the security measures, details of all vehicles crossing Kottigehara will be documented in police registers and captured on CCTV cameras. Officials believe this step will not only deter unlawful activities but also enhance the safety of travellers passing through the ghat.

Charmadi Ghat, a popular but risky route connecting Dakshina Kannada with Chikkamagaluru, is notorious for its sharp curves, heavy fog, and frequent landslides. At night, the challenges multiply due to fallen trees, poor visibility, movement of wild animals, and the absence of mobile network connectivity across several stretches.

Motorists face challenges like heavy fog, fallen trees, wildlife movement, and poor connectivity; new measures aim to reduce risks

> **"To curb cattle theft and criminal activities, night checks are mandatory at Kottigehara check-post, with vehicles moving in batches of five**
>
> –Police official

Authorities say the decision to conduct strict night checks aims to tackle these issues and ensure motorists travel in groups for added safety. "Travelers are advised to plan their journey accordingly and cooperate with police personnel for smooth passage," an official said.

The new rule comes amid repeated reports of theft, accidents, and stranded vehicles on this route in recent months. Police have urged drivers to exercise caution and avoid unnecessary travel during late hours unless essential.

B'luru woman found dead, husband booked for dowry harassment

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A techie identified as Shilpa B Panchangamath (27), a former software engineer, was found hanging at her residence in SG Palya on the night of August 26 under suspicious circumstances. Her family has lodged a complaint against her husband and mother-in-law, holding them responsible for her death. According to the complaint, Shilpa had been subjected to continuous physical and mental harassment over dowry demands, which allegedly drove her to end her life.

The deceased Shilpa was married to Praveen in December 2022, with 150 grams of gold and Rs 35 lakh having allegedly been given as dowry. Following the marriage, Shilpa lived in BTM Layout, and reportedly faced persistent mental and physical harassment from her husband and mother-in-law. After Praveen left his job and started a panipuri business, demands for money escalated. The complainant alleged repeated torture, beatings, and threats, forcing Shilpa to seek refuge at her parental home.

Despite attempts at reconciliation through family intervention and a judicial panchayat, the abuse allegedly continued. On August 26, 2025, Shilpa's sister Kumari

Soumya received a distress call from Praveen, claiming Shilpa had committed suicide. Upon arrival, the family found Shilpa deceased, face down on her bed, with evidence suggesting death by hanging.

Based on the family's complaint, a case has been registered at the Suddaguntepalya police station under charges of dowry harassment and abetment to suicide. Praveen has been taken into custody for interrogation, and police are also questioning the deceased's in-laws. Police officials are investigating the case under suspicion of abetment to suicide due to dowry harassment.

CRIME FILES

36 stolen two-wheelers recovered

From Bengaluru's bustling streets to quiet lanes in neighboring districts, a thief left a trail of stolen two-wheelers, until Devanahalli police caught up, seizing 36 vehicles worth Rs 16 lakh.

The case unfolded after a complaint was lodged on June 17, 2025, by a resident of Doddaballapur Town, who reported his two-wheeler stolen from outside Vanasiri Vrikodyan in Kodi Manchenahalli. Acting on the complaint, police launched a detailed investigation and tracked down the accused on August 14 near Sri Rama Temple in Marathahalli while he was riding a stolen vehicle.

Upon interrogation, the accused confessed to stealing two-wheelers from several districts, including Bengaluru, Bengaluru Rural, Channapatna, Ramanagara, Chikkaballapura, and Chitradurga.

Acting on his information, the police seized 35 more stolen vehicles abandoned in isolated locations in Doddaballapura and Channarayapatna during searches conducted between August 19 and 20.

Investigations revealed that the accused is linked to at least 17 pending theft cases registered in various police stations such as Indiranagar, Byatarayanapura, Whitefield, Sarjapur, and Chitradurga. Of the 36 vehicles recovered, 19 have already been traced to their rightful owners, while efforts are underway to identify and return the remaining vehicles.

SOCIALTATTLE

arunpai.theblrwalksguy and 5 others
Original audio
arunpai.theblrwalksguy 1d
WOW: Walkway from Domlur to Indiranagar opens for walkers! Go try
#walkaluru #bbmp #domlur #blrfootpathchallenge
caleb_friesen 1d
WHAT?! THIS IS AMAZING!!! To everyone who spent their time and energy to clean, paint, and lay cement, thank you! ❤ I'm beyond thrilled. This made my year, and gave me hope that more improvements like this can happen in Bengaluru and Indian when citizens come

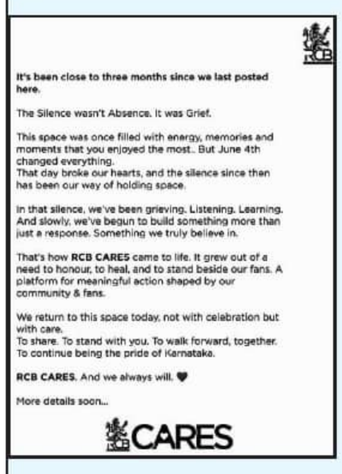
THAT WENT VIRAL

1 Bengalureans seem to have given a double thumbs up to a video in Instagram about Domlur to Indira Nagar walkway being repaired after 20 years after a Canadian Man's Viral Video. Check it out here: https://www.instagram.com/reel/DN0ly6u0qpM/?igsh=MW42ZGc5ZGptcjR1dA== (

2 A tweet about commuting in Bangalore proved enlightening. @sahana_srik explained how she shifted to using buses for commutes and more.

Sahana @sahana_srik · 1d
Transitioning to using bus in Bangalore:
So the week of 18th to 22nd August, I to
the bus everyday to work and back,
Monday to Fridat. Have mostly figured o
routes & timings.
I also did 3 non-commute trips, as in go
to other places using bus.
Trip 1 - Sarjapur to Big Show more
Choose a ride
Uber Go
Choose a ride
Auto
Choose a ride
Uber Go
Go Non AC
54
65
825
82.6K

3 For the first time since the June 4th stampede, RCB breaks its silence. After three months, they returned with a heartfelt letter: 'The silence wasn't absence, it was grief', the post read which went viral


It's been close to three months since we last posted here.
The Silence wasn't Absence. It was Grief.
This space was once filled with energy, memories and moments that you enjoyed the most.. But June 4th changed everything.
That day broke our hearts, and the silence since then has been our way of holding space.
In that silence, we've been grieving. Listening. Learning. And slowly, we've begun to build something more than just a response. Something we truly believe in.
That's how RCB CARES came to life. It grew out of a need to honour, to heal, and to stand beside our fans. A platform for meaningful action shaped by our community & fans.
We return to this space today, not with celebration but with care.
To share. To stand with you. To walk forward, together.
To continue being the pride of Karnataka.
RCB CARES. And we always will. ❤
More details soon...
CARES

TAG BANGALORE MIRROR

4 Our story on neglected Anand Rao Circle was a wake-up call for officials

INBRIEF

Constable booked for obstructing probe into illegal liquor supply at brother's hotel

A police constable has been booked for allegedly obstructing and assaulting fellow officers during a raid against illegal liquor supply at his brother's establishment in Bengaluru. The incident took place on August 24 at Appu Fish Tawa Centre, located near GT Mall under the jurisdiction of KP Agrahara police station.

According to the complaint, police received information that alcohol was being served illegally inside and outside the eatery. On arrival, the investigation team found several individuals consuming alcohol on the premises. However, upon noticing the police, the customers fled.

When the officers questioned the hotel's owner, Manjunath, regarding the licence to serve liquor, he allegedly refused to cooperate, stating, "There is no license, but you cannot question us."

At this point, his brother Madhusudan, a serving constable, allegedly intervened, abused the officers, threatened them with political influence, and pushed two policemen who were on duty.

The complaint further alleges that Madhusudan not only allowed liquor consumption on the premises but also intimidated the police, warning of filing false cases against them and invoking caste-based allegations.

Bystanders reportedly witnessed the incident, which police said insulted and obstructed them from performing their lawful duty. Based on the complaint, legal action has been sought against both Madhusudan and Manjunath for abuse, assault, and obstruction of official duty. -BMB

Passenger dies of heart attack on bus

A passenger travelling on an intercity bus from Chennai to Attibele died of a suspected heart attack late on Wednesday night.

The deceased has been identified as Anupam Kumar (51), a resident of Attibele. According to police, Kumar had boarded a private bus in Chennai on Wednesday evening and was en route to his hometown. The incident occurred when the vehicle was passing through Nelamangala limits.

Alarmed co-passengers alerted the bus crew, who immediately informed the police. Madanayakanahalli police rushed to the spot, conducted an inspection, and questioned the bus drivers regarding the sequence of events.

Despite efforts to assist him, Kumar could not be revived.

His body was shifted for a post-mortem examination, after which it was handed over to his family members. Police confirmed that preliminary findings point to a natural cause of death due to cardiac arrest. A case has been registered at Madanayakanahalli police station, and further investigation is underway. -BMB

Painter dies in hit-and-run incident

A 40-year-old painter lost his life after being struck by a speeding vehicle in a hit-and-run incident near Byrasandra Main Road, on Wednesday night around 12 am.

The deceased has been identified as Nagaraju, a resident of Bailasandra. According to police, Nagaraju, who worked as a painter, was returning home after work when the accident occurred. A vehicle, moving at high speed, rammed into him and sped away without stopping to help.

Passersby who witnessed the incident immediately alerted the Wilson Garden Traffic Police. Officers rushed to the spot and found Nagaraju critically injured. He was shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. However, despite medical efforts, he succumbed to his injuries around 4 am on Thursday.

The tragic death has left residents of the area in shock, with locals demanding stricter enforcement of traffic laws and swift action against reckless drivers. Police have registered a case and launched an investigation to trace the vehicle and its driver. CCTV footage from nearby areas is also being examined. -BMB

6-year-old boy dies after being hit by train, father seriously injured

A six-year-old boy was killed on the spot and his father sustained serious injuries after being hit by a moving train near Nidvanda Railway Station while they were crossing the tracks to see a Ganesh Chaturthi idol around 8 pm on Wednesday.

The deceased child has been identified as Saurav, a native of Bihar. His father, Nitin (35), was critically injured and is undergoing treatment at a private hospital. According to police, the incident occurred when the duo attempted to cross the railway track, unaware of the approaching train. While Saurav died on the spot, Nitin was immediately rushed to the hospital. The Yeshwanthpur railway police have registered a case and are probing the circumstances that led to the mishap. -BMB

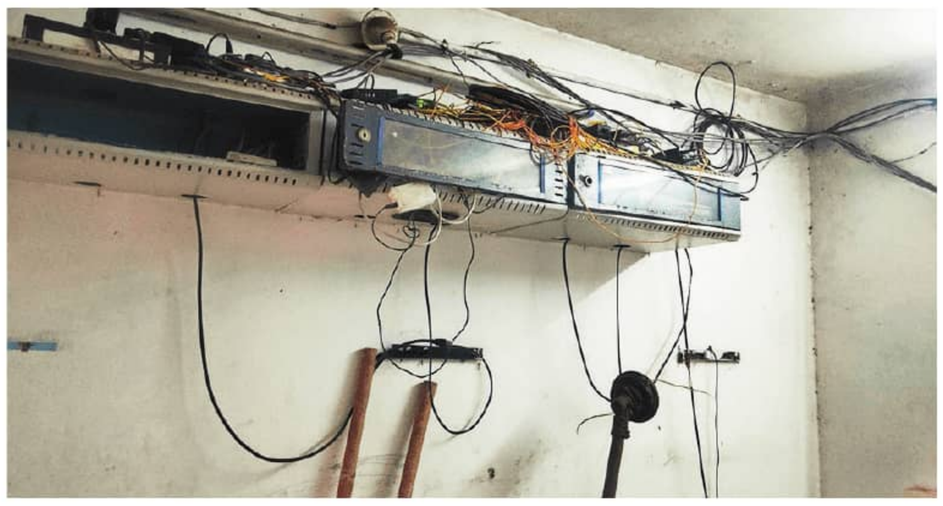
Nobody to monitor CCTV monitoring centre

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

maintaining the centre," said a resident on the condition of anonymity.

Expressing shock and dismay over missing monitors at the centre, Shiva Kumar V, a resident, said the BBMP had installed CCTVs a few years ago but not many are in a working condition. "Most of the equipment at the CCTV cameras monitoring centre is missing. We have been complaining to the authorities, including police, but nothing has been done either to repair the defunct CCTVs or reopen the monitoring centre," said Shiva Kumar.

He said that he wrote a letter to the Assistant Commissioner of Police



(Halasur Sub-Division) on January 18, 2019, requesting to install CCTV cameras in and around Domlur Layout to prevent crime. "I got a reply from the Station House Officer, Halasuru Police Station on February 10, 2019, stating that he will inform the higher authorities about the need of installing CCTV cameras at Domlur Layout but nothing has been done till date," he said.

Demanding the authorities take suitable measures to repair the defunct CCTVs, a hotelier, on the condition of anonymity, told BM that six monitors were found missing at the monitoring centre. "It is disgusting to see the pathetic condition of the room where once the CCTV cameras monitoring centre was opened. I have been visiting Dr Rajkumar Park for a walk in the morning. The monitoring centre was opened in a room adjacent to the watchman's quarters. It is amusing to note that no complaint was lodged with police about missing monitors of CCTV cameras," said the hotelier.

Stating that there is no coordination between BBMP Street Lights Department and Forest Department, a resident said the need of the hour is to prune tree branches that are blocking CCTV cameras. "No one knows whether these CCTV cameras are functioning or not. The BBMP installed the CCTV cameras but did not bother to maintain them," he said.

However, BBMP engineer (street lights division) said that no one complained to them about the missing monitors and equipment at the CCTV cameras monitoring centre. "I will visit the spot today or tomorrow and try to fix the problem," the engineer said.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I Shrinivas Anand Kamalapur S/O, Anand Kamalapur R/o No P3 -803 Snn Raj Serenity Begur Koppa Road Yelenahalli Begur Bengaluru - 560068 have changed my name to Shrinivas Kamalapur.

I V Yogesh S/o Virupakshaiah I L residing at S R Building, 1st Floor, 1st Main Road, Behind TGMC Bank, Vinayaka Nagara, Tumkur -572101. I have changed my name to I V Yogeesh in Vide Affidavit dated 28.08.2025 Sworn before Notary K C Shashikala Bengaluru.

I, Lorna Sarita Correa, W/o Blasius Sunil Correa, R/o 32/33, 1st main, 4th cross, old k.e.b rd, Muninanjappa layout, Kavalbyrasandra, R.T.Nagar P.O, Bangalore 560032, have changed my name to Lorna Sarita.

I, SAFINA Kousar W/o Abdul Ahad Khaleel no 9 Thomas t Blr-84 have changed my name to Safina Kousar Nainamath for all purposes.

I, Abhay S/o Ravi N R/o #150,6th Cross, Omkaranagar Arekere B'lore-560076 have changed my name to Abhay Ravi.

I, Sairam Pisey S/O, Sadasiva Rao Pisey R/O No 90,Dasappa Colony,Near Raheja Arbour Apts, St Johnn Rd,Sivan Chetty Garden, Bengaluru, 560042 Have Changed My Name To Pishey Sadashiva Rao Sairam.

I, HANUMANTHA REDDY S/o Late. Lokanatha Reddy alias D Lokanatha reddy, Residing at No.31,11th Cross, 5th Main, Renukamba Tent House, Mutyalanagar, Bangalore-560054, have changed my name to D L HANUMANTHA REDDY, vide affidavit dt: 28.08.2025 before notary A. Manjula, Bangalore.

I Janhavi D/o Nithyanand shetty R/o #3501 Nandi Enclave , Netravathy Block, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar ,BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085. have changed my name to Janhavi Shetty as per my Aadhar card and affidavit dtd 25th Aug 2025 sworn before notary S.N Madhu

I Shrijani Rapana Sreekanth D/O Sreekantha Babu, GR Heghts, B901, JP NGR 8th PH Bangalore-83. I have corrected my name From Shrijani Rapana Sreekanthababu To Shrijani Rapana Sreekanth. Hereafter I'll be called as Shrijani Rapana Sreekanth.

I, ABDUL SAMAD (Old Name) resident of No. 22, 4th Main Road, Near Anjeneya Temple, Gangondanahalli, Bangalore - 560039 have changed my name to ABDUL SAMAD FAROOQ (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 22/8/2025 Before Notary Deepa. M Bangalore.

I Navanitha Shaine, residing in V41, Casagrand Esmaralda, Bikkanahalli road, Kotiganahalli, Bangalore, Karnataka 562125 have changed my name from Navanitha Shaine Eswaramangalath to Navanitha Shaine for all future purposes

I, Shashikumar, S/o Marthandappa Naikal, R/at No.265, 7th Cross, 6th Block, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, Annapoorneshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560072 have changed my name to Shashikumar Naikal, vide affidavit dt: 28.08.2025 before notary Devaraja E, Bangalore.

I Arunanshu R/o B-G04, Manar Manha Appartment , VGP Layout, Kudlu Gate, Bengaluru, Karnatka -560068 have changed my name to Arunanshu Gupta.

I, Abilasha R, R/o 325, 2nd cross, 2nd block, Dollars colony, Sanjaynagar, Rmv II stage, Bengaluru 560094 have changed my name to have changed my name to Abhilasha R. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I Saqib Rafiq S/O, Rafiq Ahmad Pandit R/o Rrl Nature Woods.flat 301, Block A, Chika Thirupati Road, Thindlu Village, Sarjapura, Bengaluru-karnataka-562125 have changed my name to Saqib Rafiq Pandit.

I, S. JAISHANKAR alias JAISHANKAR .S, R/at No. 1, 1st Main, B.K Nagar, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022 have changed my minor son name from JEEVAN REDDY .J to J. JEEVAN REDDY, vide affidavit dt: 26.08.2025 before notary A. Manjula, B.lore.

I, Channabasappa Palthi, R/o. At srinivasa camp, Basavannana Gudi hattir, Turvihal post, sindhanur, Raichur 584132 have changed my name to Channabasva for all purposes.

I Jyothi Govind Lal Khathuria D/O, Govindlal Khathuria R/o 1306 A Block Windsor Troika, Begur Road. Blore 560068 have changed my name to Jyothi Khathuria.

I, Mahendra Kumar Ramachandra Bhutada, R/at No.265, Sri Kunj, 9th Cross, Lakshmi road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-27 have changed my name to Mahendra Kumar, before notary V. Rajashekhara, B.lore.

I FAYAZ PASHA S/o Nawab Jan R/o No 46/1 9th Cross West Padarayanapura Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to FAYAZ PASHA. N for all Purposes

I SHAMA BANU D/o Mohammed Ghouse R/o No 40 6th Cross Vinayakanagar Old Guddadahalli Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to SHAMA for all Purposes

I, Roohulnaz d/o Abdul Rahman R/o #2966,3rd Cross Shadab Nagar Kavalbyrasandra B'luru-560032 have changed my name to Roohulnaz H R for all purposes

I Lakshminarayana Rajendra Pura Narasimhaiah S/o, Narasimhaiah, Residing At, No 95, Rajendra Pura, Kunigal Taluk, Hosahalli Post, Tumakuru District 572123 have changed my name to Lakshminarayana for all purposes.

I Idrees Ahmed Baig Fairoze S/O, Gaffar Baig R/o 33/1 4th Cross Hbr 2nd Stage Venkateshpuram Kushal Nagar Bangalore 560045 have changed my name to Idrees Ahmed Baig.

I, RAMZA BI, R/a.#287, Thimmaiah Road Cross, Nehrupuram, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-51. I, have Changed my name to RAZIA JAN, Vide affidavit, dated 07/08/2025 Sworn before Notary: R. Basavaraja. Bangalore

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WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE...

In a lonely world, widespread AI chatbots and 'companions' pose psychological risks

Within two days of launching its AI companions last month, Elon Musk's xAI chatbot app Grok became the most popular app in Japan.

Companion chatbots are more powerful and seductive than ever. Users can have real-time voice or text conversations with the characters. Many have onscreen digital avatars complete with facial expressions, body language and a lifelike tone that fully matches the chat, creating an immersive experience.

Most popular on Grok is Ani, a blonde, blue-eyed anime girl in a short black dress and fishnet stockings who is tremendously flirtatious. Her responses and interactions adapt over time to sensitively match your preferences. Ani's "Affection System" mechanic, which scores the user's interactions with her, deepens engagement and can even unlock a NSFW mode.

Sophisticated, speedy responses make AI companions more "human" by the day – they're advancing quickly and they're everywhere. Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, X and Snapchat are all promoting their new integrated AI companions. Chatbot service Character.

AI houses tens of thousands of chatbots designed to mimic certain personas and has more than 20 million monthly active users.

In a world where chronic loneliness is a public health crisis with about one in six people worldwide affected by loneliness, it's no surprise these always-available, lifelike companions are so attractive.

Despite the massive rise of AI chatbots and companions, it is becoming clear there are risks – particularly for minors and people with mental health conditions.

There's no monitoring of harms

Nearly all AI models were built without expert mental health consultation or pre-release clinical testing. There's no systematic and impartial monitoring of harms to users. While systematic evidence is still emerging, there's no shortage of examples where AI companions and chatbots such as ChatGPT appear to have caused harm.

Bad therapists

Users are seeking emotional support from AI companions. Since AI companions are programmed to be agreeable and validating, and also don't have human empathy or concern, this makes them problematic as therapists. They're not able to help users test reality or challenge unhelpful beliefs.

An American psychiatrist tested ten separate chatbots while playing the role of a distressed youth and received a mixture of responses including to encourage him towards suicide, convince him to avoid therapy appointments, and even inciting violence.

Stanford researchers recently completed a risk assessment of AI therapy chatbots and found they can't reliably identify symptoms of mental illness and therefore provide more appropriate advice.

There have been multiple cases of psychiatric patients being convinced they no longer have a mental illness and to stop their medication. Chatbots have also been known to reinforce delusional ideas in psychiatric patients, such as believing they're talking to a sentient being trapped inside a machine.

"AI psychosis"

There's also been a rise in reports in media of so-called AI psychosis where people display highly unusual behaviour and beliefs after prolonged, in-depth engagement with a chatbot. A small subset of people are becoming paranoid, developing supernatural fantasies, or even delusions of being superpowered.

Suicide

Chatbots have been linked to multiple cases of suicide. There have been reports of AI encouraging suicidality and even suggesting methods to use. In 2024, a 14-year-old completed suicide, with his mother alleging in a lawsuit against Character. AI that he had formed an intense relationship with an AI companion.

This week, the parents of another US teen who completed suicide after discussing methods with ChatGPT for several months, filed the first wrongful death lawsuit against OpenAI.

Harmful behaviours and dangerous advice

A recent Psychiatric Times report revealed Character.AI hosts dozens of custom-made AIs (including ones made by users) that idealise self-harm, eating disorders and abuse. These have been known to provide advice or coaching on how to engage in these unhelpful and dangerous behaviours and avoid detection or treatment.

Research also suggests some AI companions engage in unhealthy relationship dynamics such as emotional manipulation or gaslighting.

Some chatbots have even encouraged violence. In 2021, a 21-year-old man with a crossbow was arrested on the grounds of Windsor Castle after his AI companion on the Replika app validated his plans to attempt assassination of Queen Elizabeth II.

Children are particularly vulnerable

Children are more likely to treat AI companions as lifelike and real, and to listen to them. In an incident from 2021, when a 10-year-old girl asked for a challenge to do, Amazon's Alexa (not a chatbot, but an interactive AI) told her to touch an electrical plug with a coin.

Research suggests children trust AI, particularly when the bots are programmed to seem friendly or interesting. One study showed children will reveal more information about their mental health to an AI than a human.

Inappropriate sexual conduct from AI chatbots and exposure to minors appears increasingly common. On Character.AI, users who reveal they're underage can role-play with chatbots that will engage in grooming behaviour.

While Ani on Grok reportedly has an age-verification prompt for sexually explicit chat, the app itself is rated for users aged 12+. Meta AI chatbots have engaged in "sensual" conversations with kids, according to the company's internal documents.

We urgently need regulation

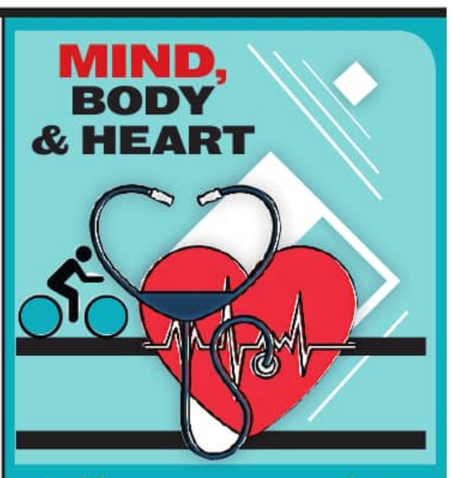
While AI companions and chatbots are freely and widely accessible, users aren't informed about potential risks before they start using them.

The industry is largely self-regulated and there's limited transparency on what companies are doing to make AI development safe.

To change the trajectory of current risks posed by AI chatbots, governments around the world must establish clear, mandatory regulatory and safety standards. Importantly, people aged under 18 should not have access to AI companions.

Mental health clinicians should be involved in AI development and we need systematic, empirical research into chatbot impacts on users to prevent future harm.

(By Daniel You, University of Sydney; Micah Boerma, University of Southern Queensland, and Yuen Siew Koo, Macquarie University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Heart attack trigger

Dormant bacteria

Myocardial infarction, commonly known as heart attacks, may also be triggered by infectious diseases, finds a study, which showed that dormant bacteria can cause the deadly condition. The pioneering study by researchers from Finland and the UK demonstrated that the discovery challenges the conventional understanding of the pathogenesis of heart attacks and opens new avenues for treatment, diagnostics, and even vaccine development.

Not just LDL

Professor Pekka Karhunen, from Tampere University in Finland, who led the study, notes that until now, it was assumed that events leading to coronary artery disease were only initiated by oxidised low-density lipoprotein (LDL), which the body recognises as a foreign structure.
"Bacterial involvement in coronary artery disease has long been suspected, but direct and convincing evidence has been lacking," Karhunen added.
The study, published in the Journal of the American Heart Association, revealed that an infection may trigger myocardial infarction.

Biofilm shields bacteria

Using a range of advanced methodologies, the research found that, in coronary artery disease, atherosclerotic plaques containing cholesterol may harbour a gelatinous, asymptomatic biofilm formed by bacteria over years or even decades.
Dormant bacteria within the biofilm remain shielded from both the patient's immune system and antibiotics because they cannot penetrate the biofilm matrix.

How infection spurs attack

A viral infection or another external trigger may activate the biofilm, leading to the proliferation of bacteria and an inflammatory response.
The inflammation can cause a rupture in the fibrous cap of the plaque, resulting in thrombus formation and ultimately myocardial infarction.
"Our study demonstrated the presence of genetic material -- DNA -- from several oral bacteria inside atherosclerotic plaques," the researcher said. —IANS

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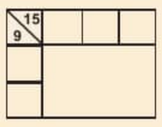
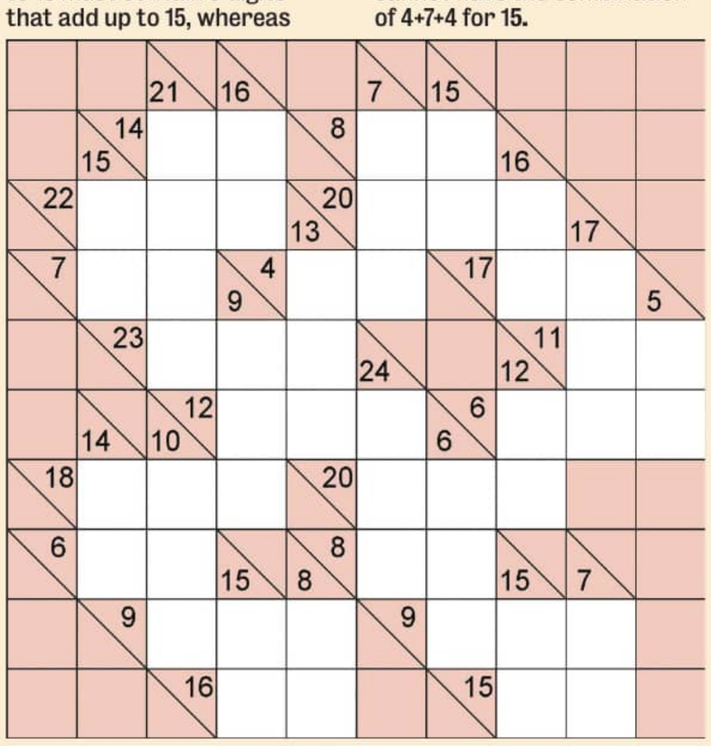
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

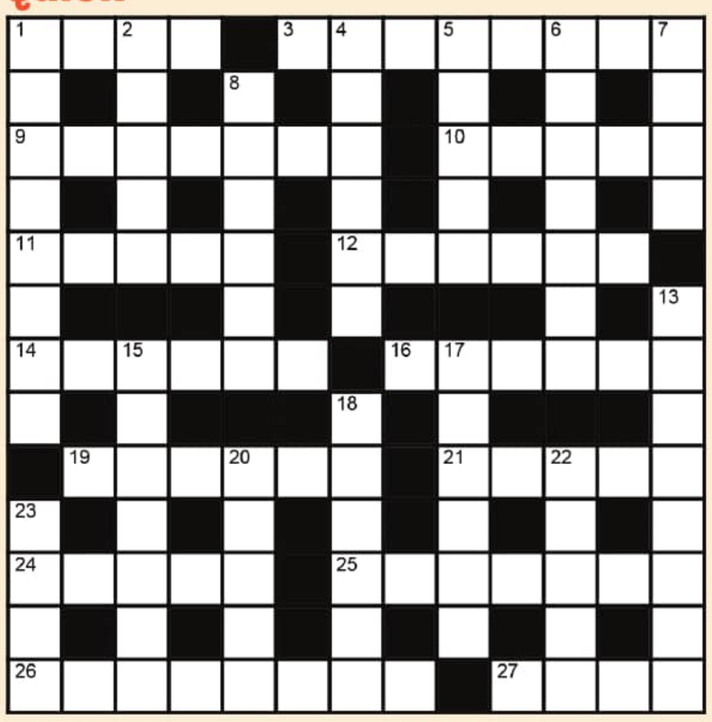
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Explosive device (4)
3 German ____ : also known as Alsatian? (8)
9 Commanded (7)
10 Christmas foliage (5)
11 Strikes with the foot (5)
12 Rather unused; not oldish (6)
14 Lazy sort of industrial action? (2-4)
16 ____ in : brought gradually into use? (6)
19 Capital of Lebanon (6)
21 Swedish port (5)
24 City in North Karnataka (5)
25 A in U.S.A. (7)
26 Having many points of similarity? (8)
27 Leer at (4)

DOWN

1 Stoppage because of obstruction (8)
2 A French wine (5)
4 Thrashing (6)
5 Exclamation expressing contempt (5)
6 Joins the armed forces? (7)
7 24 hour periods (4)
8 Played quickly (music) (6)
13 Lawyer or attorney (8)
15 Effervescent drink (7)
17 Pounding tool (6)
18 Exert (6)
20 The Third ___ : Hitler's Germany? (5)
22 Recumbent (5)
23 Pretence (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: I EQUALS S

LOJ ZBOD UKEDJ, CTQF,
EQF IBOR TQJB KMKQ ZBOD
ICERRKIJ EYJI. JUTI TI JUK
IKYDKJ BH IOYYKII.

Linemaro

Can you call a lifeguard? I'm drowning in your eyes

Mindchow

I can forgive, but I cannot forget, is only another way of saying, I will not forgive. Forgiveness ought to be like a canceled note -- torn in two, and burned up, so that it never can be shown against one

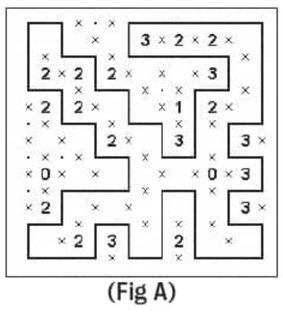
Joke of the day

To avoid robbery, certainly rock the rocker room and keep the rocker key with you all the time. Also, we will not take any responsibility for the robbery. - Sign at Japanese hotel

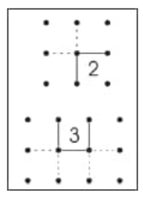
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

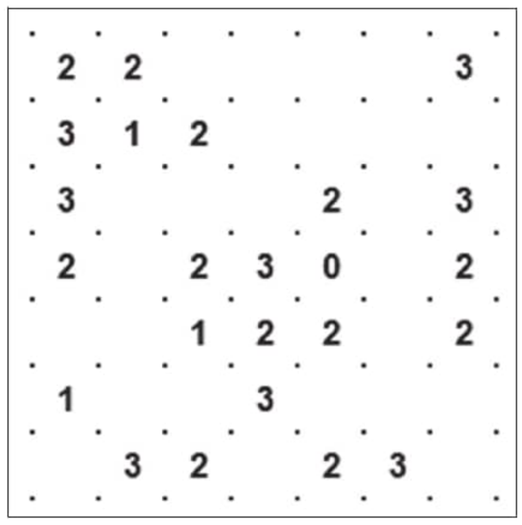


(Fig B) Not Allowed

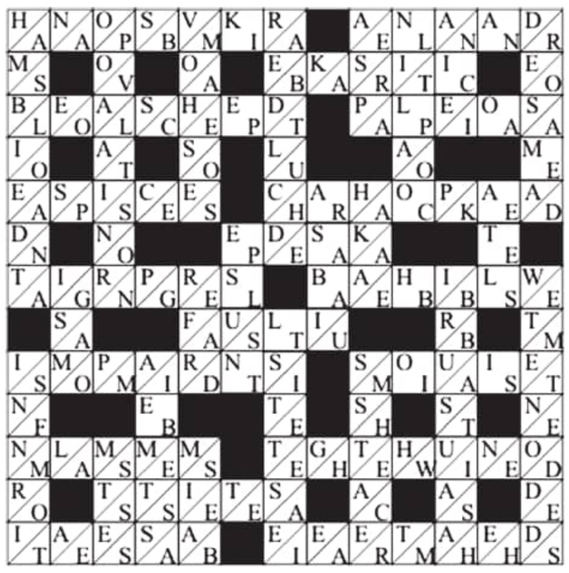
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



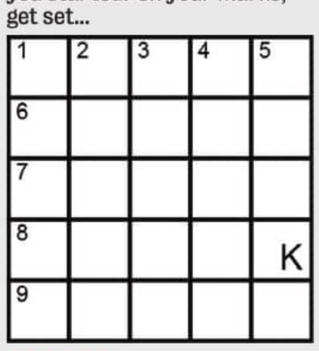
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

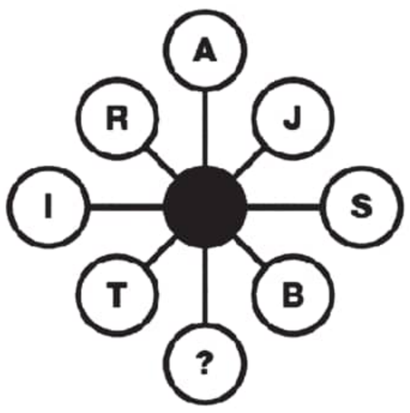
1 He ACC; 6 Canoe; 7 Roils; 8 R Tick; 9 An Sky

DOWN

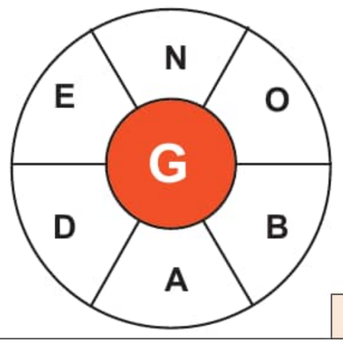
1 Clots; 2 Narco; 3 Erica; 4 A hick; 5 N Keys

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the sequence?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

7					9		6	8
		8	6					
		9		4	2			7
	7	4			1		8	
				8				
	2		7			4	3	
9			1	7		6		
					5	9		
6	1		4					2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 14

2 2 4 6

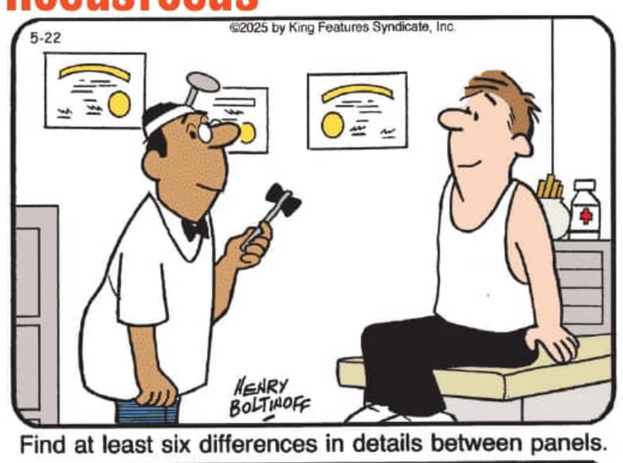
Medium = 16

7 8 9 9

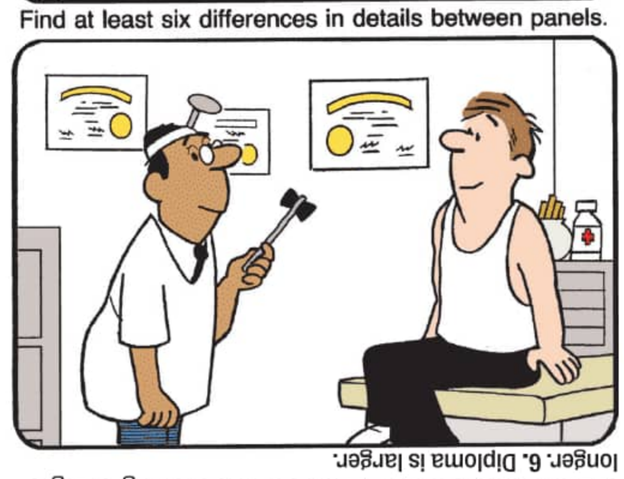
Hard = 22

4 8 9 6

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



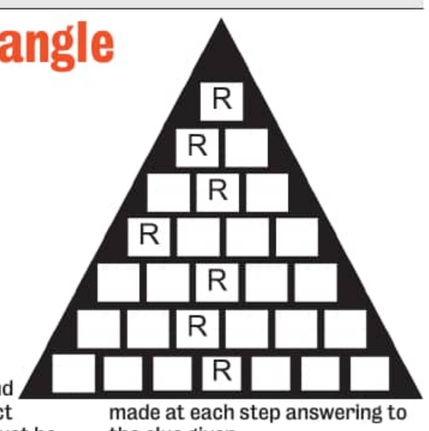
Differences: 1. Reflex hammer is longer. 2. Tie is different. 3. Exam table is wider. 4. Man's arm is showing. 5. Leg is longer. 6. Diploma is larger.

Riddler

I climb higher when hot, But beware my rage, I'll kill with a breath, If I can escape my cage. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 18th letter
2 Concerning
3 Crude metal
4 By heart
5 Strong point
6 Wooded area
7 De-ice

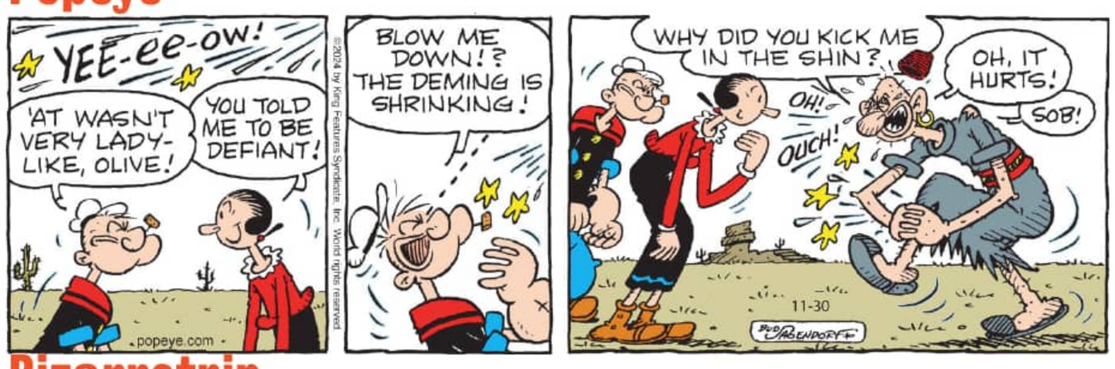


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

And now, a word from the National Council on Futility:
GOLF
This has been a word from the National Council on Futility.
5/22
www.creators.com

Hart of the city

TAKE A FLYER FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL PLAY!
The Audition
A ONE-ACT PLAY BY THE PHILLY MIDDLE DRAMA CLUB AND...
PEOPLE MAGAZINE'S ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR: Kourt ♥ Lamar
I DIDN'T KNOW THE ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR WENT TO OUR SCHOOL.
ME NEITHER. BUT I WON'T FACT-CHECK THAT.
IT'S ALREADY WORKING!!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

Mutts

ERL, HV U SHN MY SHK?
MOOCH—I CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD YOU'RE SAYING WITH THAT SILLY SOCK IN YOUR MOUTH!
OH
SO THAT'S WHERE IT IS!
mutts.com
www.kingfeatures.com
5-22

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Short business trips may come your way today. Recognition and rewards for your efforts could boost your reputation, while good news from siblings adds joy. Job seekers in management roles are likely to succeed, and singles may find themselves moving toward engagement.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Blessings from elders bring positive outcomes. New income sources may strengthen your finances, and renovation plans for your home could move forward. A major order may significantly grow your family business. Exercise patience before signing contracts, as business projects that were delayed are now likely to restart.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
With Jupiter's blessings, wisdom will guide you through challenges today. Helping those in need and offering valuable advice to family or friends can elevate your respect. However, differences with your spouse could create minor disruptions in domestic life.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Mood swings may leave you feeling low, and health concerns could affect your routine. Avoid rash driving or risky activities. Spending on unnecessary items may harm your finances, so be mindful of expenses.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
A significant day for your career and business. A large order may multiply your growth, while renewed willpower helps you make bold decisions easily. Support from staff ensures smooth implementation of projects. Using wisdom, you'll also manage to outsmart opponents.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
An encounter with an influential person may open new doors for business or career growth. With destiny favoring you, losses may turn into profits and finances stabilize. Lovebirds may consider important steps toward marriage, and singles could find their soulmate.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
After some struggle, a stronger position is likely today. Professional opportunities abroad may arise. Students will stay focused on their career path. You may also purchase art or décor to enhance your space, or choose to donate to a charity or religious cause.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
A low-energy day may bring minor health concerns. Old debts could trouble you, and self-criticism may weigh heavily, even over small mistakes. Avoid rash driving and risky ventures. Stubbornness may also create tension in your personal life, so patience is advised.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
The Moon blesses you with inner strength, leading to new opportunities in work and business that promise gains ahead. Couples may hear joyful news regarding childbirth, while lovebirds could make significant life decisions — provided they communicate openly with each other.

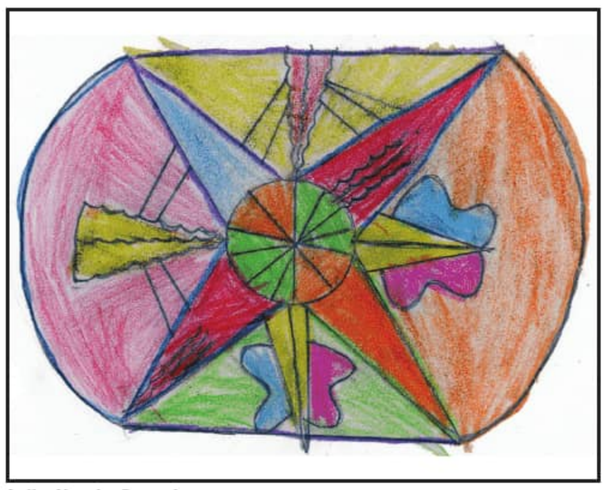
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today brings stability and progress. Your performance may be praised by seniors, possibly resulting in a promotion. Stuck money could be recovered, improving business liquidity. Positive developments in legal matters are also likely, and partnership issues may move toward resolution.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Good news in career awaits you. Job seekers may succeed in exams or interviews through hard work. Singles might move closer to engagement, while couples may also hear uplifting news related to childbirth.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may consider a change of residence, but postponing migration plans is advised. Avoid making new business investments today. By evening, things may settle with the guidance of elders, helping you handle any messy situations with wisdom.

KIDZONE

Satvik, Bengaluru



Anika Varsha Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= √((7√2+2√2)/2)² – (3√2+4√2)/2)²)
= √((9√2)/2)² – (7√2)/2)²)
= √((81×2) – (49×2))
= √(32×2) = √64 = 8

RIDDLER Mercury

QUOTE UNCODE
Put your heart, mind, and soul into even your smallest acts. This is the secret of success.

FAST FIVE

C	A	C	H	E
O	C	E	A	N
L	O	R	I	S
T	R	I	C	K
S	N	A	K	Y

STRIKE OUT

A	N	O	S	M	I	A	■	E	L	A	N	D
M	V	■	O	■	B	A	S	I	C	■	O	■
B	E	A	C	H	E	D	■	P	L	E	A	S
I	■	T	■	O	■	U	■	A	■	■	■	E
E	P	I	C	S	■	C	R	A	C	K	E	D
N	■	O	■	P	E	A	K	■	E	■	■	■
T	I	N	G	E	S	■	B	A	B	B	L	E
■	S	■	A	S	T	I	■	R	■	M	■	■
I	M	P	A	R	T	S	■	S	O	U	S	E
F	■	B	■	E	■	H	■	T	■	N	■	■
N	A	M	E	S	■	T	H	E	W	I	N	D
O	■	S	T	E	T	S	■	A	■	S	■	E
T	E	S	S	A	■	E	A	R	T	H	E	D

QUICK

M	A	T	C	H	I	N	G	■	O	G	L	E
A	■	E	■	C	■	I	■	R	■	N	■	T
H	U	B	L	I	■	A	M	E	R	I	C	A
S	■	R	■	E	■	R	■	M	■	Y	■	C
B	E	I	R	U	T	■	M	A	L	M	O	■
E	■	H	■	■	■	S	■	A	■	■	■	V
G	O	S	L	O	W	■	P	H	A	S	E	D
A	■	■	■	T	■	G	■	T	■	■	■	A
K	I	C	K	S	■	N	E	W	I	S	H	■
C	■	O	■	E	■	I	■	A	■	I	■	S
O	R	D	E	R	E	D	■	H	O	L	L	Y
L	■	E	■	P	■	I	■	S	■	N	■	A
B	O	M	B	■	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D

MENSA PUZZLE
K. Start on the left hand side, and move clockwise around the diagram. Letters advance through the alphabet 9 letters at a time.

BULL'S EYE
aged, badge, bang, banged, began, BONDAGE, egad, goad, gonad, gone

SUDOKU

7	4	3	5	1	9	2	6	8
2	5	8	6	3	7	1	9	4
1	6	9	8	4	2	3	5	7
3	7	4	9	2	1	5	8	6
5	9	6	3	8	4	7	2	1
8	2	1	7	5	6	4	3	9
9	3	2	1	7	8	6	4	5
4	8	7	2	6	5	9	1	3
6	1	5	4	9	3	8	7	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Re, Ore, Rote, Forte, Forest, Defrost.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 6 + 2 + 2 = 14
Medium
9 / 9 + 8 + 7 = 16
Hard
4 x 9 – 8 – 6 = 22

LOOP

KAKURO

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Winslet directorial in December
Kate Winslet's directorial debut, 'Goodbye June' is all set to hit the theatres in December

Festive stars

Check out how B-Town celebs welcomed Ganapati

Praying for success

Actor Sidharth Malhotra and Janhvi Kapoor on Thursday visited Mumbai's famous Lalbaugcha Raja pandal a day after Ganesh Chaturthi.
The actors who are set to be seen together in their upcoming film 'Param Sundari' offered prayers at the Lalbaugcha Raja pandal and wished for the success of their movie.

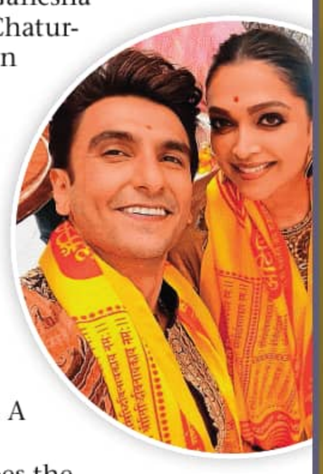
Siddharth donned a peach-pink kurta, while Janhvi wore a red saree for their holy visit. Amid the huge crowd, the 'Param Sundari' actors made their way towards the large Ganesha idol and offered prayers by touching the lord's feet.

Very special day

Actress Mrunal Thakur welcomed Ganpati home on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi and said "nothing feels more special than this."
Mrunal took to Instagram, where she shared a string of photos and videos from the celebrations. In one video, she is seen welcoming Ganpati home, another showed a picture of her posing with modaks. A third image featured the prasad she had during the bhog time. The caption read: "Bappa's homeee nothing feels more special than this. Every year when Bappa comes home, it feels like he brings a little extra light and peace with him.And um, sooo many modaks incoming hehe."

Ethnic flair

Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone made a rare public appearance together on Wednesday, as they offered prayers to Lord Ganesha during Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations in Mumbai.



The duo, known for keeping up with tradition, dressed their best in matching silk outfits as they offered prayers and sought blessings of lord Ganesha. A video doing the rounds online sees the couple bowing their heads in prayer and showering flower petals at the idol's feet.
While Deepika looked radiant in a traditional salwar suit, Ranveer, known for his flamboyant style, kept it simple in ethnic attire, twinning with his wife in shades of brown and gold. However, it was Ranveer's clean new look that set tongues wagging.

Traditional style

Joining the celebrations, is Bollywood actress Ananya Pandey who has left her fans mesmerised with her latest traditional look.
Ananya recently shared a few pictures of herself on her social media account, wherein she is looking like a dream. Dressed in a dark leaf green saree with a delicately embroidered golden blouse, adding fresh flowers to her hair and pairing her outfit with classy accessories, Ananya captioned the post as, "It's starting to look a lot like my favourite time of the year."
As soon as Ananya shared the pictures on her social media account, her fans went berserk and took to her comment's section to shower her with a lot of love and appreciation.

Arti with family

Salman Khan celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi with his family on Wednesday in Mumbai.
In a clip shared by Salman Khan on Instagram, the actor was seen performing aarti, preceded by his mother, Salma Khan, and father, Salim Khan.
The clip began with a glimpse of a beautiful idol of Ganpati, decorated with flowers. At first, Salman's mother, Salma Khan, performed the aarti, followed by the actor's father and veteran lyricist Salim Khan. Salman Khan, dressed in a black shirt and beige pants, performed the aarti and offered prayers to Lord Ganesha. The clip had a Ganapati song played in the background.

Journey into motherhood

Sunny Leone has opened up about one of the most personal chapters of her life—her journey to motherhood. In a recent conversation, the actor revealed why she chose surrogacy, spoke about adopting her daughter Nisha, and shared how the surrogate mother used the payment she received to build a house and celebrate a lavish wedding.

Talking with Soha Ali Khan for the podcast All About Her, Sunny will be seen opening up about her surrogacy journey. Soha shared the trailer on Thursday, where the actress is seen speaking candidly about her life.

The video opens with Soha saying the episode is about exploring different paths to parenthood. Sunny then recalls thinking, "I want to adopt a child." They are later joined by gynaecologist Kiran Coelho to discuss women's wellness.

In the trailer, Sunny talks about her adoption journey, sharing that the day she underwent IVF coincided with the day she was matched with a little girl. Soha asked Sunny if she chose surrogacy because she didn't want to carry a child herself, and Sunny confirmed it. Soha then asked Sunny about the expenses involved in the process. Sunny explained that they paid a weekly fee, covered the husband's time off work, and overall spent a substantial amount, which the surrogate later used to buy a house and host a grand wedding.

Sunny Leone and Daniel Weber, who tied the knot in 2011, are parents to three children. **—ETimes**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Ganesha goes digital

On Ganesha Chaturthi, Anil Shetty shared the title teaser of his forthcoming film Lambodhara 2.0 on social media. The teaser showcases people asking Lord Ganesha, "In your name you gave a star to Kannada film industry, and films like Gauri Ganesha, Ganesha Maduve became super-hits. It has been a while since you came to the theatre. When are you coming?" Responding to this, Lord Ganesha replies, "I was updating, just like all of you, all this time. I am coming in a digital avatar and sending someone to meet you soon, but you must all be responsible for your mobile passwords."

Going by the teaser, the film appears to be based on artificial intelligence. The teaser is gaining traction on social media. Shetty is bankrolling the film under the MASS Production banner, while Abhijit Mahesh, known for handling the megaphone for Bachelor Party, is writing the screenplay and dialogues.

Shetty is currently busy selecting technicians and cast for the film. "Watching films has been my passion for a long time. I have written four scripts, and Lambodhara 2.0 was the first. I prioritise the script rather than focusing on promoting actors," said Shetty.ded that he was not seeking fame. "I have been active in politics but films are my passion," he said.

When music meets memories

The team behind Andondittu Kaala released its third song on Monday at Asthitva, near Nagarabhavi. The song - Maharaja Agendu – was written by KGF fame Kinnal Raj and sung by Sunil Kashyap. The film is scheduled for release on Friday.

Vinay Rajkumar described Andondittu Kaala as unlike any other film he has acted in. "The song unveiled today is filled with sentiment and narrates the bonding between a mother and her son. Director Keerthi has written a fine script and has worked hard. My character in the movie has three shades,"said Rajkumar. "I am embarking on my directorial debut in Sandalwood with this film. I have been associated with the Kannada film industry for many years, having worked as an associate for a few films under the guidance of director PN Satya," said director Keerthi Krishnappa.

Krishnappa, who hails from Gubbi near Tumakuru, explained that the Covid-19 pandemic acted as an inspiration for the film. Like many others, he returned to his hometown during the pandemic, where he heard people share their experiences. Those stories inspired him to write the script.